



Birdwatching in Queensland

Why Choose Queensland for Birdwatching?

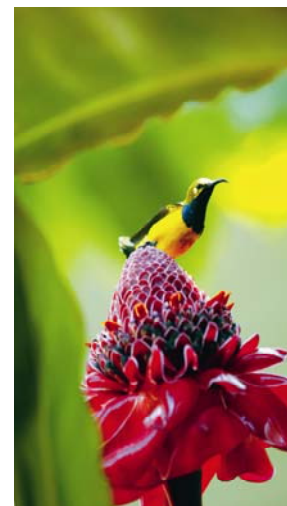
Looking for a close encounter with some of Australia's best birdlife? Or just out to enjoy nature and take in the local wildlife? Grab your binoculars and go for a bushwalk or just gaze from the balcony of your hotel and you'll be sure to find some fantastic feathered characters waiting to meet you. With an environment that spans the arid outback, tropical wetlands, rainforests and roaring coastal waters, Queensland is home to a stunning array of birdlife.



Queensland is also a holiday destination for many birds that travel great distances to enjoy our warm winters and plentiful supply of food and water. Asiatic and Arctic waders (some travelling from as far away as the Arctic Circle) choose to visit Queensland in the warm winter months, escaping the cooler climates of the northern hemisphere. It is also the state that provides the main entry point for many Australian birds that spend the winter in the Islands to the north of Australia and the spring and summer months in Queensland where they breed. Queensland is the only state where you can see birds that travel from New Guinea to Australia providing an optimal opportunity to spot some spectacular tropical birds from our international neighbours.

Quick Birdwatching Facts:

- Of Australia's 825 bird species, over 600 can be found in Queensland. Twenty-two species are considered to be endemic (species not found elsewhere or confined to a certain area).
- Thirty seven species are shared by Queensland and New Guinea and/or the islands to the north of Australia making Queensland the only Australian state where these birds can be seen.
- Queensland is home to the Southern Cassowary, an ancient survivor of the Gondwanan times. The Cassowary resides in the tropical rainforest of North Queensland.
- Seven of the eight species of Bowerbirds are found in Queensland.
- All four species of the flamboyant Birds of Paradise are found in Queensland.
- All ten species of Kingfishers (including the infamous Kookaburras) occur within Queensland.



Top Queensland Birdwatching Sites

- **Wet Tropics World Heritage Area:** Affectionately known as the jewel in Queensland's crown in terms of birdwatching, the Wet Tropics is home to over 450 different types of birds including waders and distinctive rainforest species. The Wet Tropics has 11 species confined to the region that are found nowhere else on the Earth. The mud-flats of the



Cairns Esplanade provide superb and intimate experience of the Asiatic and Arctic migrant waders on their return to their breeding grounds close to and about the Arctic Circle. Visit the Mareeba Wetlands on the Atherton Tablelands for a quintessential birdwatching experience! For more information visit www.daintreebirdwatching.com.au

- **Cape York Peninsula:** Stand on the tip of Australia and welcome hundreds of migratory birds to the region. Cape York is the only place in Australia that boasts 18 different types of bird that travel from New Guinea to Queensland. See thousands of Brolgas, countless Waders and Sarus Cranes on your travels through this diverse and unique landscape.
- **Queensland's Outback:** From the sand dunes and plains of the Channel Country in the south west, to the grass plains of the centre and the fringes of the Great Dividing Range in the east, Queensland's Outback is comprised of diverse and uniquely Australian environments that support a surprising array of birdlife. Bustards and Emus wander the Mitchell grass plains, Wedge-Tailed Eagles soar on desert thermals, while around the billabongs Corellas and Galahs keep up a constant cacophony in the trees, Fairy-Wrens dart through the undergrowth, and flocks of luminescent green and gold budgerigars descend for a quick drink and to escape the heat.
- **Southern Queensland:** Travel back in time to the World Heritage listed Gondwanan rainforests of South-East Queensland to see highly sought after species such as the Albert's Lyrebird and the Rufous Scrub-Bird. These birds are a missing link from the ancient Gondwanan times. Lamington National Park is home to an abundant variety of birdlife including Regent Bowerbirds, Crimson Rosellas, Australian King-Parrots, Albert's Lyrebirds, Noisy Pittas, Rose Robins and Rufous Fantails.
- **The Great Barrier Reef:** Take your binoculars when you visit the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef and keep an eye out for Terns, Noddies and Frigate Birds diving into the ocean to feast on a meal of fresh fish. Sand and coral cays dotted throughout the length of the reef support breeding colonies of Terns, Noddies and large colonies of Boobies.
- **Fraser Island:** The diversity of birds that call this World Heritage listed Island home is impressive with up to 350 different species including Kingfishers, Honeyeaters, Waders and Woodland birds. If you are lucky you might even catch a glimpse of the rare Black-Breasted Button-Quail on the southern tip of the island or one of Australia's rarest and most elusive birds, the Ground Parrot.





Top Queensland Birdwatching Experiences

Breakfast with the Birds – Port Douglas

Enjoy the symphony of sounds and colours with the surrounding wildlife, as you are treated to one of Queensland's best tropical breakfast buffets. Breakfast with the birds provides you with an intimate experience with some of North Queensland's best birds. Rainforest Habitat is a wildlife sanctuary located in the heart of the Wetlands environment in Tropical North Queensland and offers a perfect way to start the day. Ph: +61 (0)7 4099 3235 or visit www.rainforesthabitat.com.au

Birdwatching Week – Gold Coast Hinterland

Located in the Gold Coast Hinterland, O'Reilly's Rainforest Guesthouse is world famous for their sanctuary of tropical birds. Their internationally acclaimed festival of birds has occurred every November since 1978 and it never fails to surprise. Over 200 birds are regularly sighted throughout the week long event that involves guided walks, 4WD excursions and lectures by a team of expert guides. For further information Ph: +61 (0)7 5502 4911 or visit www.oreillys.com.au

Birdwatching Cruises – Daintree National Park

Glide quietly through pristine waters of the Daintree River and experience the birdlife of the surrounding forests up close and personal with guide Chris Dahlberg. Departing at dawn, the cruise provides an intimate opportunity to explore the magnificence of this world heritage listed area when the birds are most active. Meet some of their local birds including species of Herons and Orioles. For further information contact Daintree River Tours and Cruises, Ph: +61 (0)7 4098 7997 or visit www.daintreerivertours.com.au

Stay with the Birds – Atherton Tablelands

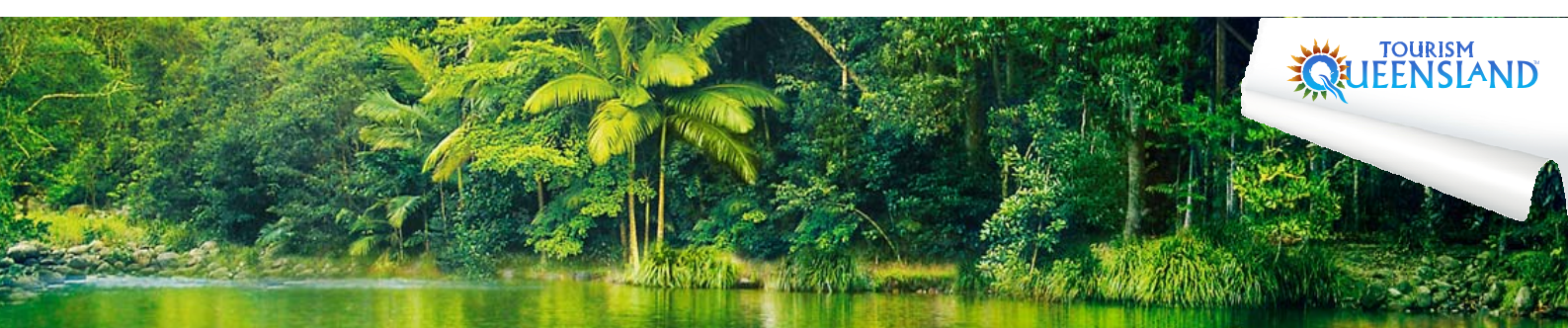
Experience birds at your doorstep in the stunning Atherton Tablelands at Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat. Stay up with the birds in handcrafted pole and timber treehouses and join your host Jon on a morning bird walk. Restricted to 6 people, this walk provides the perfect opportunity to see up to 40 different species of birds in a morning. For further information contact +61 (0)7 4096 8360 or www.rosegums.com.au

Birds of the Savannah and Wetlands – Atherton Tablelands

The Mareeba Tropical Savanna and Wetland Reserve is located a short one hour drive from Cairns in the 'golden triangle' of birding in Tropical North Queensland. A series of 12 interconnected lagoons, creeks and channels weave their way across the 5,000 acre Reserve. The lagoons, which range in size from several hundred acres to much smaller intimate habitats, attract a rich and diverse birdlife and provide a sanctuary for almost all of Australia's tropical waterbirds. Two hundred and four species of birds, including many species of rare bushland birds such as the Black-Throated Finches and Buff-Breasted Button-Quail, have been recorded. Experienced guides can lead you on a boat cruise, tour or guided walk throughout the wetlands. For further information contact ph: +61 (0)7 4093 2514 and www.mareebawetlands.com

Birdwatching at an Island Oasis – Fraser Island

Discovering the birds of Fraser Island is a breeze, from the comfort of award-winning Kingfisher Bay Resort. Rangers conduct daily bird-watching walks where brilliant Azure, Forest and Sacred Kingfishers, Rainbow Bee-Eaters, Honeyeaters, Wrens and Finches are spotted in the resort's grounds. Now in its seventh year, Fraser Island's acclaimed Bird Week attracts more than 160



Australian and international bird watchers – keen to seek out some of the 354 recorded species on the island. Bird Week activities include Ranger-guided excursions to mangrove and rainforest in search of the elusive Ground Parrot and Owl, informative talks by renowned birding experts, bird art and photography classes. For further information ph: +61 (0)7 4120 3333 and www.kingfisherbay.com

Birdwatching on the Reef

Look to the skies next time you visit the Great Barrier Reef! Voyages Heron Island is a true coral cay right on the World Heritage Listed Great Barrier Reef. Heron Island is renowned for its abundance of birdlife with dense Pisonia forests covering the island. Here, you will share the island with thousands of Noddy Terns and twenty thousand Shearwater Mutton Birds. A Heron holiday combines the rare excitement of nature with all the comforts of an international resort. For further information ph: +61 2 8296 8010 and www.heronisland.com

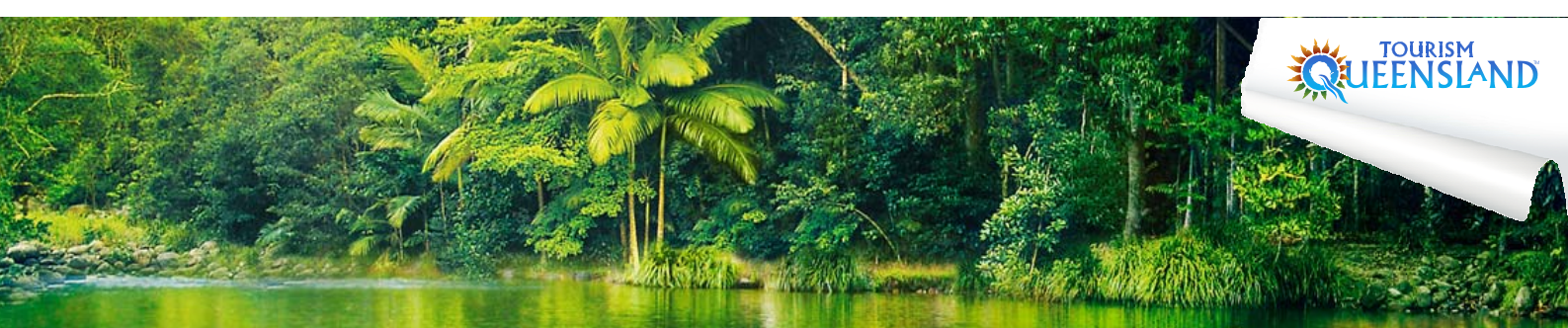
Further Information

For further information, visit www.queenslandholidays.com.au/natural-adventures

Operators who Specialise in Birdwatching in Queensland

Accommodation:

Adel's Grove Camping Park	www.adelsgrove.com.au
Adora Downs Farmstay	www.adoradowns.com.au
Binna Burra Mountain Lodge	www.binnaburrallodge.com.au
Bloomfield Luxury in the Rainforest	www.bloomfieldlodge.com.au
Broken River Mountain Resort	www.brokenrivermr.com.au
Cassowary House	www.cassowary-house.com.au
Chambers Wildlife Rainforest Lodges	www.rainforest-australia.com
Couran Cove Island Resort	www.couran.com
Fur'n'Feathers Rainforest Tree Houses	www.rainforesttreehouses.com.au
Girraween Environmental Lodge	www.girraweenlodge.com.au
Hinchinbrook Island Wilderness Lodge	www.hinchinbrookresort.com.au
Jabiru Safari Lodge	www.mareebawetlands.com
Kingfisher Bay Resort	www.kingfisherbay.com
Kingfisher Park Birdwatchers Lodge	www.birdwatchers.com.au
Licuala Lodge	www.licualalodge.com.au
Lotus Bird Lodge	www.lotusbird.com.au
Mt Glorious Getaway Cottages	www.mtgloriousgetaways.com.au
O'Reilly's Rainforest Guesthouse	www.oreillys.com.au
Red Mill House B&B	www.redmillhouse.com.au
Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat	www.rosegums.com.au
Sanctuary Retreat	www.sanctuaryretreat.com.au
Sketches Mountain Resort	www.mountainresort.com.au
Springbrook Cedar Retreat	www.springbrookretreat.com.au
Thala Beach Lodge	www.thalabeach.com.au



Tours:

- 1770 Larc Tours www.1770larctours.com.au
- Alan's Wildlife Tours www.alanswildlifetours.com.au
- Araucaria Ecotours www.learnaboutwildlife.com
- Atherton Birds of Prey www.birdsofprey.com.au
- Billy Tea Bush Safaris www.billytea.com.au
- Birding Services Brisbane www.birdingservices.com.au
- Caloundra Cruises www.caloundracruise.com
- Campbell's Tours and Travel www.campbellstravel.com.au
- Chris Dahlberg's Daintree Birdwatching Tours <http://home.austarnet.com.au/chrisld/>
- Cooper Creek Wilderness www.ccwild.com
- Daintree Rainforest River Train www.daintreerivertain.com
- Daintree River Cruise Centre www.downundertours.com
- Down Under Tours Australia www.moretonbayescapes.com.au
- Moreton Bay Escapes www.mareebawetland.com
- Mareeba Wetlands www.seastarcruises.com.au
- Seastar Cruises www.oztours.com.au
- Oz Tour Safaris www.skyrail.com.au
- Skyrail www.sc4wd.com.au
- Southern Cross 4WD Tours www.thegreatgreenwayecotours.com.au
- The Great Green Way Tours www.waitawhile.com.au
- Wait-a-While Rainforest Tours www.proserpineecotours.com.au
- Whitsunday Crocodile Safari www.wildwings.com.au
- Wild Wings and Swampy Things www.wilderness-challenge.com.au
- Wilderness Challenge

Attractions:

- Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary www.cws.org.au
- The Rainforest Habitat Wildlife Sanctuary www.rainforesthabitat.com.au
- Atherton Birds of Prey Show www.birdsofprey.com.au